

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #6211-83
30 August 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM : Major General Edward B. Atkeson, USA
National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces

SUBJECT : Conversation With the Commandant of the Marine Corps

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1. I met with General P. X. Kelley on 25 August 1983 to brief him on the general purpose forces estimates program. The General was particularly interested in two studies:

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2. In the discussion of the estimates, General Kelley made two remarks worthy of special note:

- The developing chain of Soviet overseas military support facilities in the Eastern Hemisphere could be valuable to the Soviets for protection of their sea lines of communication between eastern and western ports in the USSR. Facilities on the western African littoral could serve to cover Soviet intranational shipping which might be denied use of the Suez Canal in time of crisis.
- The Soviets could simplify some of their problems related to extending control over the Persian Gulf if they were to undertake a two-phased approach. Phase one would encompass a limited occupation of northern Iran under the aegis of existing treaty

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provisions, ostensibly for maintenance of stability in the region in response to projected disturbances. Phase two would include development of air and logistics bases in northern Iran for use in subsequent operations or for political leverage southward. The development of such bases would be likely to shorten the amount of time it would take to capture the remainder of the country and thus to reduce the risk of effective US counteraction.

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3. I assured General Kelley that his thoughts and concerns would be addressed as the studies mature.

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Edward B. Atkeson

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI
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VIA : C/NIC

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